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Dispatch

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RICHMOND, VA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1910.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY—Fair.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

ONCE PROLIFIC OYSTER ROCK DEPLETED NOW

Bill in Legislature to
Rearrange Public
Grounds.

PREAMBLE DEALS WITH SITUATION

Speaker Byrd, Patron of Measure,
Regards It as Mild in Char-
acter—Explains Provisions
and Shows How State
Can Save Great and
Vanishing Industry.

Speaker Richard Evelyn Byrd yesterday introduced in the House a bill providing for rearranging, curtailing and polling the lines of the Bay of oyster survey in James River. This measure the speaker regards as of a very mild character.

In the preamble the bill states that for years the Bay of oyster survey has been nothing but an imaginary line, existing only upon paper. Thousands of acres of once prolific rock are depleted. It is said, and new lines are provided. It is estimated that by this rearrangement the State will save about \$5,000 annually in expenses of guarding, and will bring in additional revenue from leased grounds.

It is believed by the Commission of Fisheries that if the lines are run as indicated in the bill, within two years there will be from 8,000 to 10,000 acres, where there are now only 5,000 acres for the tongs to work upon.

Mr. Byrd speaks of bill.

In an interview given to The Times-Dispatch yesterday, Mr. Byrd said of his measure:

"The bill which I offered to-day is really a bill to straighten the lines of the Bay survey in the James River. It has the endorsement of the Commission of Fisheries. Personally, I would prefer to go much further in the direction of renting exhausted and unproductive bottoms to planters. The bill is of a very mild character, and cannot be hurtful to any legitimate interest. In detail it is about as follows: 'Section 1. Lines as here provided reduce the 18,000 acres within the Bay survey to about 14,000 acres. Within the 18,000 acres there are only about 5,000 that the tongs now work upon, with the prospect of reducing that 5,000 very materially if the lines are not straightened sufficiently so as to afford good policing. Of the 4,000 acres thrown out about 1,000 of it is mud; the remainder is already occupied by planters having no lease and paying no taxes to the State, holding these in violation of the law and against all efforts of the officials to keep them back. This is because of the irregular and unmarked lines of the Bay survey. Practically not a foot of these 4,000 acres has been of service to the tongs for many years.

"If the lines are run as here contemplated the Commission of Fisheries is strongly of the opinion that within two years' time there will be 8,000 or 10,000 acres where there are now only 5,000 acres for the tongs to work upon. This will be accomplished by watch-houses on the straightened lines, enabling the police to keep back encroachment, which has largely depleted the natural bottoms. The rearrangement of the lines will enable the State to give lawful leases for the grounds thrown out, thereby bringing in several thousand dollars additional revenue per annum, in addition to having the bottoms cultivated that are now kept depleted.

"It now costs the State \$10,000 a year attempting to police the present irregular lines—one side of which is sixteen miles long, with a dozen courses and angles in it—whereas under the proposed rearrangement it will not cost one-half that sum, and can be done more effectively.

"These statements are based not only upon the information offered by the State Commission of Fisheries, but also from the information of the United States government officials, who have made a most complete examination and study of the James River bottoms.

"Section 2 is the policy naturally to be pursued, if section 1 should be adopted by the Legislature.

"Section 3 restricts renting bottoms thrown out to 100 acres to any one person, and this is at the price of not less than \$1, and as much more as the commission can possibly get.

"Section 4. There was great opposition by the representatives and people in Tidewater to the bill, and when the Bay survey was first proposed, but it was found by Tidewater people to be a good thing. For all practical purposes it is obsolete to-day, and only imaginary lines in 5,000 square miles of water, it being impossible to locate it with any degree of accuracy. Owing to this the natural bottoms have been encroached upon, and the State is deriving no revenue in return therefor.

"It is essential to the State's interest, as well as to the tongs, that these lines should be rerun and permanently marked by watchhouses, permanent buoys or otherwise. When so permanently marked the officials will probably find it to the advantage of the citizens of the State to reclaim some of the depleted rocks. Undoubtedly it is to the advantage of the State, as well as to the entire oyster industry, to let out some of these bottoms, which have been so depredated upon that there is no hope of their recovery by natural means. The United States examiners are very emphatic on this point. This should be, and doubtless will be, carefully done, and the prolific rocks so carefully preserved, defined and permanently marked.

"Section 5. All acts of the oyster officials should be made public and particularly reviewed by the General Assembly. In a number of instances

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

HOUSE RATIFIES ALL AMENDMENTS

Changes in Constitution
Approved by Reso-
lution.

SENATE ARGUES TAX EQUALIZING

Republicans Still Determined to
Chase the Majority—Nomi-
nation of Judge Prentiss Con-
firmed—New Primary
Bill Offered by West,
of Nansemond.

All of the four proposed amendments to the Constitution of Virginia were approved by the House yesterday, and will now go to the Senate. If they are acted upon favorably by the upper branch they will be finally referred to the popular vote at the next November election.

The vote, however, was not unanimous on any of the propositions. In fact, the opposition to extending the sessions of the General Assembly from sixty to ninety days was opposed by some of the most experienced and influential members of the House. Thirty votes were cast against this amendment, though three of these were afterward changed to aye. The proposition apparently lacked only a leader on the floor before the vote was taken to have killed the amendment.

By this action the House ratified the proposition originating in the last General Assembly and puts them well along the road toward enactment.

Mr. Evans, of Middlesex, vigorously protested against the election of commissioners of the revenue by the people, but only a few members, apparently, agreed with him.

Much Business Done.

While the most important legislative event of the day was the introduction of Speaker Byrd's bill providing for the rearrangement and protection of the lines of the Bay of oyster survey, and the leasing of new unproductive rocks, both houses of the Legislature had busy sessions.

In joint Assembly the appointment of Judge R. R. Prentiss to the State Corporation Commission was unanimously confirmed.

Between the Scylla of an exhausted treasury and the Charybdis of imperative demands, the Senate yesterday debated the Fletcher tax equalization bill. Senator Noel, leading the minority, renewed his attack on Democratic rule, and was answered by several supporters of the measure under consideration. No vote was taken.

It is quite evident that the Republicans propose to make it as uncomfortable as possible for the majority during the session on the question of taxation and appropriations. They are reading up on the Auditor's report, and are ready, it seems, to keep up the fight as long as it is practicable.

Calendar is Crowded.

Over on the House side two Senate bills were passed, both under suspension of the rules to avoid the usual readings. They were merely of local importance, and invoked no opposition. The House calendar, with these exceptions, was not reached.

The result of the doings of the past few days, when it took two sessions to elect Senator Daniel and one to confirm Judge Prentiss, is that the House calendar is becoming congested with bills on their second reading, since measures have been steadily reported from committees every day. If the House can really get down to work to-day, a great deal of business will be done, and the roll calls are likely to occupy the session.

A fourth primary bill made its appearance, introduced in the House by Mr. West, of Nansemond. The time is too short to allow the printing of this, a great deal of time, however, but the bill will be considered, along with all the others, at the hearing this morning before the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

New Primary Bill.

The West bill is not at all drastic or startling, except in its effort to insure fair elections. It makes the primary optional with party authorities, provides that the judges of the primary election shall be chosen by party committee and the pay fixed by such committee, and provides heavy penalties for dishonest practices. The judges are to be sworn. Machinery is specified in case it is desired to elect delegates in primary to a party convention.

The provisions of the Byrd bill relative to paid political matter are retained. In fact, this is in all the bills except that of Mr. Deak.

No candidate, it is specified, for the United States Senate, Representative in Congress, or for any State office, at any primary election, shall expend for any purpose, exclusive of the amount raised against him to defray the expenses of the primary, a sum larger than an amount equal to 10 cents for every vote cast for the candidate of his party at the last preceding gubernatorial election. For violation of this provision, there is a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000, and the guilty party is in section D of the State for five years thereafter.

The Williams resolution inquiring into the advantages or disadvantages of district school examiners had a hearing yesterday afternoon before the House Committee on Schools and Colleges. An array of the State's best known educators protested against the abolition of the office. The hearing was not concluded.

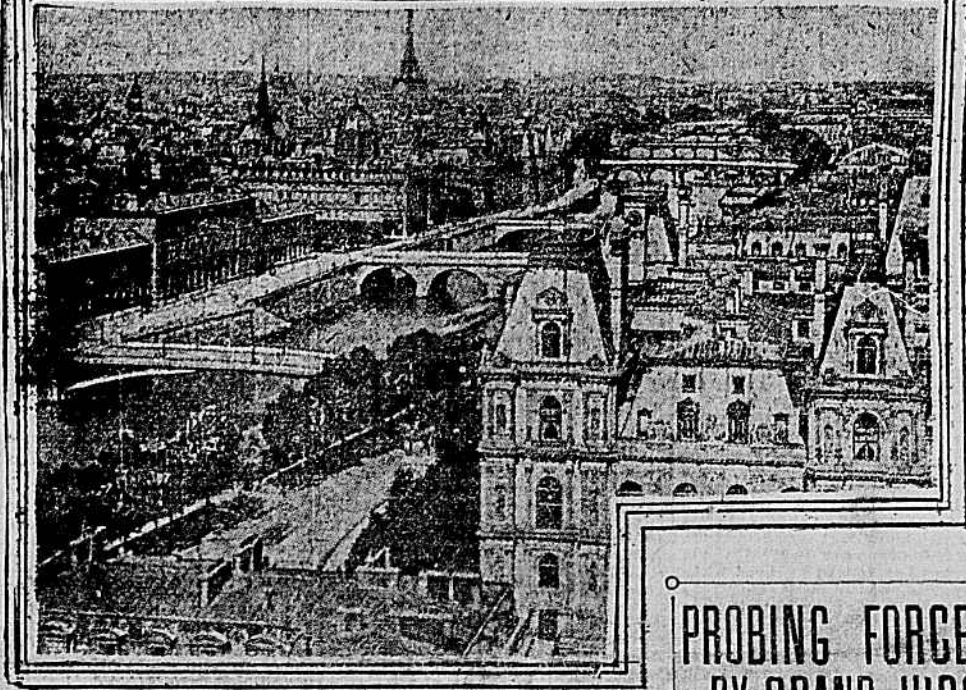
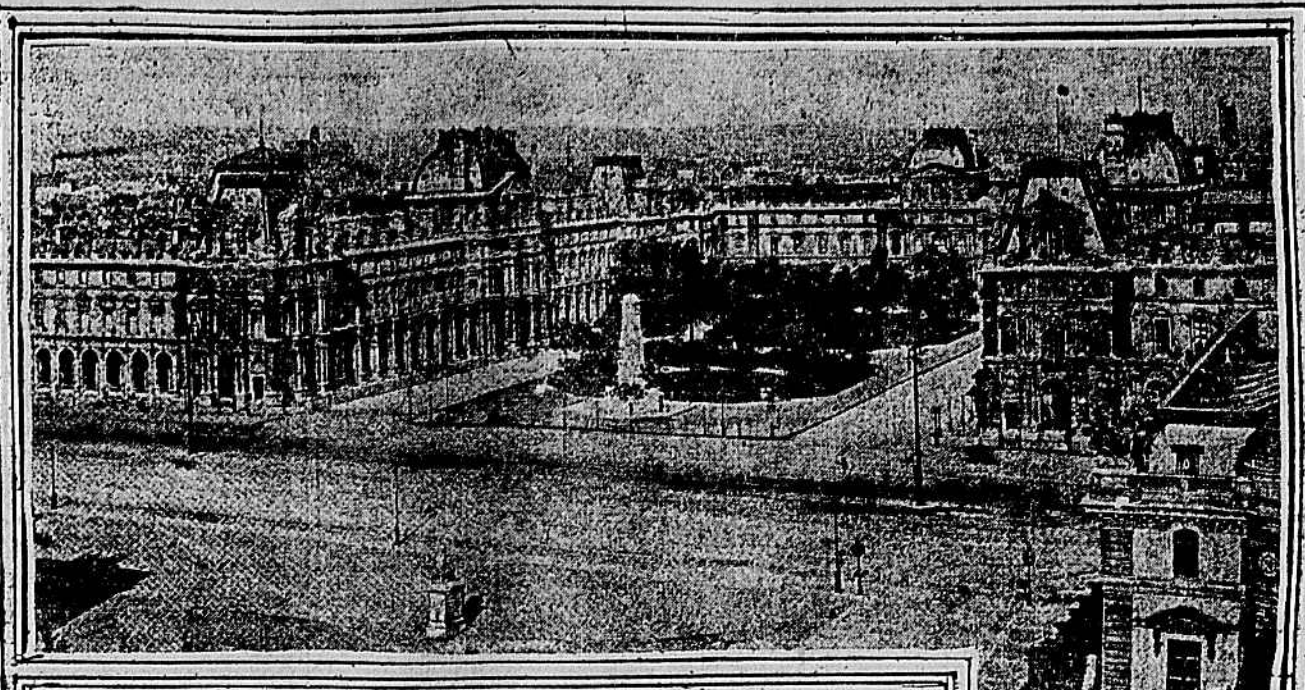
Bank Bill Considered.

Before the joint committees of the Senate and House on Insurance and Banking, a bill to establish a commissioner of banking was heard yesterday afternoon. The State banks were represented. They did not fight the bill, but the opinion was expressed that the State should pay certain costs which are proposed to be assessed against the banks. The hearing will be continued next Wednesday night.

The bill providing for the sterilization of habitual criminals and idiots

(Continued on Third Page.)

TWO OF THE WORST FLOODED SECTIONS OF PARIS



The Bridges over the Seine

CONSPIRE TO FAKE INSURANCE CLAIMS

SEEK TO DEFAUD CITY OF FORTUNE

Chicago Officials and Contractor
Are Indicted on Charge of
Huge Conspiracy.

Chicago, Ill., January 27.—Paul Redleske, resigned Deputy Commissioner of Public Works; Michael J. McGovern, a wealthy contractor, who has had many big city contracts, and nine city officials and employees of McGovern, were indicted by the grand jury to-day.

The men are charged with conspiracy to defraud the city of \$354,000, according to the sum mentioned in the true bill.

The indictment on this charge came as a complete surprise, as it was believed the alleged frauds involved only a few thousand dollars in the so-called "Shale-rock scandal."

The men indicted, besides Redleske and McGovern, are: Otto Nischoff, secretary to McGovern; Max Landguth, former superintendent for McGovern; George Moore, a foreman for McGovern; Ralph Bounell, resigned Assistant City Engineer; John C. Parks, Assistant City Engineer; Robert Green, a foreman for McGovern; Richard Burke, John McNichols and Joseph Maher, city inspectors in the engineers' department.

Conspiracy Charged.

The indicted men are specifically accused of conspiring to defraud the city by laying only one-sixth of the concrete and brick work called for in the contract for the construction of section N, of the Lawrence Avenue Tunnel.

The Merriam Commission, which has been investigating municipal expenditures, brought out the fact that the city had been charged about \$15,000 for the cutting out of the shale rock for the tunnel. The shale rock proved to be only hard clay. Evidence concerning the alleged \$250,000 fraud upon which the indictment

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

Gigantic Scheme to Defraud
Companies Is Dis-
covered.

PHYSICIANS IN PLOT

Policies to Sum of \$200,000 Is-
sued and Fifty People
Involved.

Louisville, Ky., January 27.—John J. Keane, P. J. Needham and T. T. O'Leary, agents for a number of insurance companies in Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky and other States, tonight were arrested on warrants charging them with conspiracy to defraud. The warrants were sworn out by S. C. Renick, secretary and treasurer of the Independent Life Insurance Company, of Nashville, Tenn.

While the amount involved is not stated, it is said to reach \$200,000 in policies alleged to have been written on the lives of persons virtually certain to die within a few months. The fraud consisted in the impersonation of sick and incurable persons by healthy ones employed for the purpose. The men arrested will have a preliminary hearing in Police Court to-morrow. They gave no bail tonight.

What attorneys, employed by a dozen or more life insurance companies to conduct criminal prosecution, say is a scheme to defraud insurance companies through the formation of an alleged conspiracy is to be made the subject of an investigation in Louisville, New Albany, Ind., and perhaps other points.

Covering one point in the alleged conspiracy, warrants were sworn out to-day by S. C. Renick, secretary and treasurer of the Independent Life Insurance Company, of Nashville, Tenn., for the arrest of John J. Keane, H. J. Needham and T. T. O'Leary, insurance solicitors, of Louisville, on charges of conspiracy to defraud by insuring dying persons through misrepresentation.

It is said that the affair involves in one way or another more than fifty persons, and relates to fraudulently

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

PROBING FORCED BY GRAND JURORS

They Intimate That Former In-
vestigation Was Stopped by
Outside Influence.

Chicago, Ill., January 27.—Four members of the Federal grand jury that investigated the so-called beef trust in 1908 forced the government to start the present probe, according to a report current to-day.

Assistant Attorney-General Wade Ellis, who spent to-day in Chicago, denied that there was any friction among government officers concerning the present investigation, and also stated that District Attorney Edwin W. Sims would remain in charge.

Concerning the inception of the present action, it is said that there would have been none had the four dissatisfied jurors not sought the aid of Judge Landis. This quarter, it is said, was willing to indict the packers in December, 1908, and finally became so indignant over the increasing price of meat that they informed Judge Landis that they thought it was time for the government to begin another action.

Sudden Apathy.

The report of the four jurors alleged that there was sufficient evidence submitted to the 1908 grand jury to warrant true bills, and that in the face of this there was a sudden apathy on the part of those behind the prosecution. They also said that if the investigation was not immediately renewed they would make a joint statement to the public, setting forth their theory of why the prosecution had been dropped.

Following the jurors' complaint, Judge Landis is said to have made an investigation that resulted in the present action. Judge Landis, it is said, got in touch with the evidence submitted to the 1908 grand jury, and he is determined that the present action shall not be nullified by any influence arising outside the grand jury.

In his statement concerning the scope of the present investigation, Mr. Ellis said:

"The Department of Justice has been at work for five or six months investigating the developments of the fresh meat industry since the last action by the government, and especially the relation of the situation to the prices of food products, with a view to ascertaining whether a cause of action now exists.

"The investigation will be conducted under the anti-trust statute and may be either civil or criminal. The pro-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

TAFT'S PET BILL IS INTRODUCED

Senate Now Has Administra-
tion's Much-Talked-Of Postal
Savings Bank Measure.

SENT TO COMMITTEE

It Provides for System of Deposi-
tories Under Direction of
Board of Trustees.

Washington, January 27.—The postal savings bank bill, drafted by Senators Carter, Dilliver and Owen, a subcommittee of the Committee on Post-Offices and Post-Roads, was perfected to-day and was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Carter. It was referred to the Post-Office Committee, and it is expected that it will be reported back to the Senate to-morrow. To prevent the concentration of postal deposits in the money centers of the East, a provision has been incorporated allowing banks receiving the postal funds for safekeeping to give indemnity bonds in lieu of collateral security, which obviates the necessity of banks going to bond centres to purchase the securities required by the government.

The bill provides that there shall be established a system of postal savings depositories under the supervision and direction of a board of trustees, consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Postmaster-General and the Attorney-General, acting ex-officio. This board is authorized to make all regulations governing the receipt, transmission, custody, investments and repayments of moneys deposited with the postal savings banks.

Report to Congress.

The board is required to report to Congress at the beginning of each regular session the number of post-offices receiving deposits in each State and Territory, the aggregate amount of deposits and the aggregate of withdrawals, the amount of interest paid, and the amount of extra expense incident to the postal savings bank system.

All post-offices of a class authorized to issue money orders, and such others as the Postmaster-General may designate, are declared to be postal savings depositories. They are to receive deposits from the public, and are to be kept open for the transaction of business every day, Sundays and legal holidays excepted, during the usual post-office business hours of the town or locality where the depositories are located.

Accounts may be opened in any postal bank by any person of the age of ten years or over and by married women in their own names and from their own control or interference by their husbands. No person will be permitted to have more than one account. An account cannot be opened for less than \$1, and no more than \$100 can be deposited in any one calendar month.

All deposits must be in multiples of \$1, but in order that smaller amounts may be accumulated for deposit savings cards will be issued and 10-cent postal savings stamps sold. When these cards and attached stamps show an investment of \$1 or multiples thereof, they will be received as deposits.

Will Draw 2 Per Cent.

The deposits in postal savings banks will draw 2 per cent. interest, credited to the books of depositors once in each year. No person will be allowed to have a balance in a postal bank in excess of \$500, exclusive of accumulated interest.

Funds received by postal savings banks are to be deposited in any solvent bank or banks, subject to public supervision and examination, in the State, Territory, and as nearly as practicable in the immediate neighborhood in which the funds are received, at a rate of interest not less than 2 1/2 per cent. The deposits are to be distributed among the local banks on the basis of their capital and surplus, and the banks may give indemnity bonds to insure the safety and prompt repayment of deposits. At its option any bank may deposit collateral security, subject to the approval of the board. In the event that banks refuse to receive postal deposits on the terms prescribed the funds may be

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

STRICKEN PARIS STILL IN GRASP OF YELLOW TIDE

Slowly Waters of Seine
Creep Higher on
Terrified City.

EACH DAY BRINGS FRESH HORRORS

Chasms in Streets Seem to
Yawn for Buildings Which
Are Crumbling in Flood.
True Gravity of Condi-
tion Concealed by
Prefect.

Flood Conditions Becoming Worse

Flood conditions in Paris had become considerably worse at 2 o'clock this morning, particularly in the south and east sections. In the old Latin Quarter the situation was critical. The sidewalk of the Quai des Grands-Augustins collapsed and fell into the Orleans Company's tunnel beneath, further extending the flood through the ancient streets, particularly the Rue Jacob and around the Institute of France.

Many sewers burst in the twelfth Arrondissement, one of the biggest in Paris, the whole of which is now submerged and has been plunged into darkness on account of the breaking of the gas mains.

The half-buried Ile St. Louis, which is connected with the city by means of the Pont St. Louis, is likely to be totally submerged within a few hours, as the water is now only a few inches from the parapet.

Masons were hastily summoned at a late hour, and are working desperately to erect a wall to save the historic Hotel Lambert, erected in the seventeenth century, and now the residence of Prince Czartoryski, and the equally famous Hotel Lauzun adjoining, which was purchased by the city in 1900, to be used as a museum of art. It was also built in the seventeenth century.

Paris, January 27.—Another day has passed, but the inexorable yellow tide still creeps slowly higher, each inch of water widely extending the area of destruction, desolation and ruin. Although the barometer is rising rapidly and bright sunshine to-day succeeded the raging storms a feeling of consternation bordering on panic prevailed to-night when the authorities, who yesterday promised the maximum of the flood for to-day, announced that this would not be reached until to-morrow morning. The City Council, at a stormy session to-night, charged M. Lepine, prefect of Paris, with withholding the true gravity of the situation. The prefect defended his attitude by saying that he was governed by the necessity of not unduly alarming the people.

In the meantime what is happening is enough to strike terror to the hearts of all. The very crust of the city seems ready to sink into the flooded subterranean labyrinth beneath. Every hour drains are bursting in new localities, causing a subsidence of the streets or bulging them up feet above their normal level, while the overflow of surface water from the river is transforming the inundated districts into formidable lakes and the streets into canals.

In the Bercey quarter the water is six feet deep in the streets, and the entire left bank of the Seine from above the Islands to Auteuil, comprising the Law Court Institute, the fashionable St. Germain district, the Foreign Office, the Chamber of Deputies and the Champs de Mars, is submerged under from one to ten feet of water. Some of the inmates left the Palais Bourbon to-night in rowboats, others on the backs of attendants.

Walls Are Crumbling.

The walls of the Invalides Station are crumbling, and both that structure and the wing of the Foreign Office opposite are in danger of collapse. The streets surrounding the St. Lazare Station have sunk three feet, and the situation there is regarded as desperate. It is also feared that the foundations of the two big neighboring department stores are being undermined.

The overflow of the broken sewers into the flooded basements menaces the health of the occupants, and the smell of sewage is already permeating the buildings.

Soldiers are working desperately by the aid of torches, disentangling driftwood above the Solférino and Henry IV. bridges, while large forces of men are still engaged in constructing dams

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

COL. MOSBY REPLIES

Colonel John S. Mosby in next Sunday's Times-Dispatch will contribute an article on "Stuart's Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign," replying to a recent paper by Col. Talcott, and to an address delivered by Dr. McKim, of Washington.